

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0395

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP, NO
SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND TO VISIT IRAN
AND TURKEY, FEBRUARY 5-11

1. THE NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, HIS
PERSONAL SECRETARY BJORN SKOGMO AND COMMERCE UNDER SECRETARY
PER OLBERG WILL TRAVEL TO TEHRAN FEB 5-8 AND TO ANKARA FEB 8-11.
THE VISITS REPRESENT ACCEPTANCES OF LONGSTANDING INVITATIONS AND
ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE LITTLE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT.

2. TEHRAN: THE FEB 5-8 SOJOURN WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE TAKEN
PLACE LAST SPRING BUT WAS POSTPONED AT THE GON'S REQUEST
(DELAY PROBABLY OCCASIONED BY FALL 77 NATIONAL ELECTIONS).
FRYDENLUND'S OFFICE ADVISED US THAT GOI HAS SUGGESTED A
LOOSE AGENDA COVERING A TOUR'D'HORIZON OF POLITICAL ISSUES
AND BILATERAL COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. THE F-16 AND THE FLOATING
GAS LIQUIFICATION TERMINAL SALES MAY FIGURE AMONG THE LATTER.

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3. ANKARA: THE FORMER TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER VISITED OSLO
SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND EXTENDED AN INVITATION TO FRYDENLUND
WHICH WAS REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES. THE NEW TURKISH
GOVERNMENT CONFIRMED THE FEBRUARY DATES. THERE HAVE BEEN
SEVERAL CONTACTS BETWEEN THE ECEVIT PARTY AND THE RULING
NORWEGIAN LABOR PARTY OVER THE LAST FOUR YEARS, AND ECEVIT
HIMSELF WAS HERE IN 1975. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT ONE OF

FRYDENLUND'S OBJECTIVES WILL BE TO DISCUSS REGULARIZING INTERPARTY CONTACTS. OTHERWISE, A GENERAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SECURITY AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IS EXPECTED TO FIND ITS WAY INTO THE, AS YET, UNDEFINED AGENDA.

4. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: KNUT FRYDENLUND.

THE 50 YEAR OLD FRYDENLUND IS A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER TURNED POLITICIAN WHO WON HIS FIRST ELECTION TO PARLIAMENT IN 1969. HE HAS BEEN FOREIGN MINISTER SINCE 1973. HE IS AMBITIOUS, HARD WORKING AND REPRESENTS THE MODERATE CENTER OF THE LABOR PARTY AND IS PROBABLY ITS LEADING THEORIST. FRYDENLUND, A STRONG SUPPORTER OF NATO, PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN SETTling THE 1976 UK-ICELAND COD WAR. HE IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER GRETHE NILSEN. THEY BOTH SPEAK EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

PER MARTIN OLBERG IS A 45 YEAR OLD PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMAT WHO WAS NAMED UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE IN 1973. HIS IMMEDIATE PRIOR ASSIGNMENT WAS COUNSELLOR OF EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. HE JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1959 AND HAS ALSO BEEN ASSIGNED TO COPENHAGEN, AND BONN. OLBERG IS INTELLIGENT AND PLEASANT, AND SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

BJORN SKOGMO IS A 37 YEAR OLD FSO WHO JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE IN 1969. HE SERVED IN ANKARA AND BAGHDAD BEFORE BEING ASSIGNED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S PERSONAL STAFF IN 1974, AND IS ALSO FLUENT IN ENGLISH.

6. FOR TEHRAN FYI. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS NOW FACING THE GON IS
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THAT ARISING FROM THE POSSIBLE USE OF NORWEGIAN MANUFACTURED COMPONENTS IN F-16 AIRCRAFT FOR IRAN. THE GON, IN ESSENCE, INTERPRETS ITS REGULATIONS AND PRACTICES AS LIMITING NORWEGIAN COMPONENTS (MANUFACTURED UNDER TERMS OF THE F-16 COPRODUCTION AGREEMENT) TO USE IN NATO COUNTRY AIRCRAFT. WHILE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT FRYDENLUND WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE ON A VISIT OF THIS SORT, THE LOCAL PRESS PLAY ON THE IRAN/F-16 PROBLEM WHICH HAS BEEN HEAVY AND IMPLICITLY CRITICAL OF THE IRANIAN REGIME, HAS ALMOST CERTAINLY BEEN REPORTED TO TEHRAN BY THE GOI EMBASSY IN OSLO. END FYI.
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